

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Giovannoni *et al.*

Art Unit: 1656

Application No. 10 053,243

Filed: January 16, 2002

For: HIGH-THROUGHPUT MICROBIAL
CULTURING

Examiner: Not yet assigned

Date: May 10, 2002

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SECOND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to calculating the filing fee, please enter the following amendments in the above-referenced application:

In the Specification:

Please insert the following header and paragraph on page one immediately before line 6:

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

This invention was made with government support under National Science Foundation Major Research Instrumentation Grant, No. OIA-9977469. The government has certain rights in this invention.

Please replace the paragraph at Page 9, lines 16-23, with the following:

In certain embodiments, cells can also be cultured on conventional growth media, to compare growth rates, culturability, or like parameters. For instance, a sample of the raw source material may be used as a starting culture for growth on nutrient agar plates. In other instances, a portion of some or all of the microbial cultures that show growth in the micro-culture compartments (e.g., the compartments of a microtiter dish) can be used to inoculate traditional